

Women, Infants, and Children program. That is more than 43 percent of babies in the United States. It is unfathomable that a facility this critical to the lives of our Nation's newborns can somehow slip through the cracks.

As of this past weekend, I am glad to see that the Sturgis plant is making formula again, but it could take a couple of months for supply to hit store shelves. Currently, the Nation's current out-of-stock rate is 74 percent. In Tennessee, it is 92 percent. This is indeed a worst-case scenario for parents and their vulnerable infant children.

How did we get here? Let's go through the timeline.

In September of 2019, inspectors found a handful of sanitary issues with the plant in Sturgis but allowed managers to continue operating while they implemented necessary changes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA conducted its first routine inspection of the Abbott Sturgis plant in 2 years in September of 2021. They found that the issues uncovered in the 2019 surveillance inspection had been resolved. At about the same time, in September 2021, the FDA receives the first complaint that a child was hospitalized with Cronobacter. Meanwhile, the Nation's out-of-stock rate for infant formula rose to 11 percent in November of 2021, when Dr. Robert Califf was nominated to serve as commissioner of the FDA.

December 1, the FDA received a second complaint related to the death of a child. The Centers for Disease Control determined that Cronobacter could have been a contributing factor.

In January of this year, the FDA receives their third complaint of a child hospitalized with Cronobacter, while at the same time The New York Times reports that baby formula shortages are, "worsening throughout the United States."

On January 31, the FDA begins a delayed follow-up inspection of the Abbott Sturgis plant. Thirteen days later, the nationwide out-of-stock rate of infant formula rises to 26 percent. Two days later, on February 15, Dr. Robert Califf is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new commissioner of the FDA.

Two days after that, on the commissioner's second day on the job, Abbott announces a voluntary recall and hold of certain powdered infant formulas produced at the Sturgis plant. The same day, the FDA receives a fourth Cronobacter complaint.

Why does this timeline matter? Because President Biden said he wasn't made aware of the issues with the stock of baby formula until late April.

Now just imagine, on your second day on the job, a fire breaks out in your office, and you don't call the President to let him know? I don't understand. I truly don't.

Again, this plant produces one-fifth of the Nation's supply of baby formula. The crisis was foreseeable and extraordinary steps should have been taken to

avoid it. There is no doubt in my mind that the February formula recall followed by the Sturgis plant closure is the primary factor that turned an already increasing problem into a crisis.

There should have been more urgency. It should have been clear to the Biden administration in February that we were going to have a problem. Maybe it was and they just didn't want to tell the President, or maybe he was busy that day. Who knows. I am sure we will find out when Republicans take back the majority and conduct proper oversight of this administration.

Put simply, the FDA and President Biden fumbled the ball for months, and families across this country are paying the price. We cannot afford for this administration to take its eye off the ball again. The President must do better.

□ 1115

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ENNIS, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Ennis, Texas, founded on June 8, 1872.

When the railroad was expanded from Houston to St. Louis in 1872, many of the workers found solace and community in what we know today as Ennis.

The railroad workers were drawn to the area's bluebonnets and cotton fields. The appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds this Texas town still runs deep in the community.

Through the years, Ennis has grown as an agricultural and industrial community, attracting residents and visitors, which has earned it the title of the "Official Bluebonnet City" of our State.

Ennis is known for more than just its bluebonnets. It is also the hosting city of the National Polka Festival. The National Polka Festival began in 1967 and attracts as many as 50,000 people to the town.

Ennis is also home to the Texas Motorplex, where national records have been set and speed milestones have been broken. My family and I have been able to witness some truly remarkable races there.

It is places like these that make Texas proud. The events and venues of Ennis, Texas proudly promote Texas values by providing a family atmosphere and cultivating community outreach.

Strolling along the historic district of Ennis, one can experience plentiful restaurants and shopping options. When entering any store, you are kindly greeted. Families and neighbors welcome each other with open arms. The hospitality of Ennis is seen through these interactions, and it becomes evident why the citizens of Ennis take so much pride in their town.

Ennis has encompassed many of our Texan values, including community and family, and has shown Texas pride for the past 150 years. I am proud and honored to represent the people of Ennis in the Sixth Congressional District of Texas. I look forward to what the next 150 years brings to the great city of Ennis.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of peace and author of our salvation, we pause in prayer to You for the ongoing conflict overwhelming the country of Ukraine and terrorizing its people. After over 100 days of fighting, O Lord, the people cry to You for deliverance.

We pray to You on their behalf as their voices grow weak with exhaustion, their hope dim with each passing hour of unrelenting adversity.

God, You are their refuge and their strength. Do not delay Your salvation from them. You are their ever-present help in time of trouble. Do not deny them the strength of Your abiding spirit.

Though the Earth gives way to the aggression of their foe, give them reason not to fear. Though the seas are ensnared with the adversary's worst intentions, send Your spirit to brood over these waters and disrupt their chaotic plans and bring the order of Your peace.

May Ukraine bear witness to Your promises. God, You are within her, she will not fall. God, You will help her at break of day. Lord Almighty, You are with them. You are their fortress.

We pray with Ukraine by the power of Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PHILLIPS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN REFORM

(Mr. PHILLIPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, Jim Ramstad represented Minnesota's Third District in Congress as a principled Republican from 1991 to 2009.

His widow, Kathryn, a remarkable woman in her own right, wrote me last week and asked that I share her message with the country: "Jim voted for the 1994 crime bill and its gun control measures. He was one of only six Republicans to cast what was clearly a difficult vote, but he felt so strongly about the compelling need to act and believed it was consistent with his bipartisan, pragmatic, and commonsense approach to fighting crime.

"After so many mass shootings, I cannot understand why Congress does not at the very least," she wrote, "ban semiautomatic weapons like the AR-15 that have been used in so many recent mass shootings."

She continued, "I feel very strongly about this and ask sincerely, what can we do to legislate reasonable legislation like in 1994?"

What can she do? She asks; she and the country ask, I might add.

We all know what we can do. And I say, let's do it.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 660

Whereas Norman Yoshio Mineta (referred to in this preamble as "Norman Y. Mineta") was born in San Jose, California on November 12, 1931;

Whereas, as a young child during World War II, Norman Y. Mineta and his family were unjustly sent to Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in Park County, Wyoming by the United States Government due to their Japanese ancestry;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta returned to San Jose with his family after World War II, graduated from San Jose High School, and went on to earn a degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta honorably served as a United States Army intelligence officer in Japan and Korea before returning home and joining the insurance business run by his father;

Whereas, in 1967, Norman Y. Mineta became the first person of color to serve on the San Jose City Council and, in 1971, was elected as the 59th Mayor of San Jose, becoming the first Asian American to serve as mayor of a major city in the United States;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1974, where he served as president of the freshman class and went on to spend more than 20 years, during which time he never forgot a name;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was a champion of civil rights and cosponsored the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), which—

(1) was signed into law by President Ronald W. Reagan; and

(2) expressed a formal apology to the thousands of individuals of Japanese ancestry in the United States who were forced into internment camps during World War II and offered \$20,000 payments to each individual;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta distinguished himself as an expert on transportation issues and an advocate for mass transit, serving as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta entered the private sector after leaving Congress, but continued to serve the United States as Chairman of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was nominated by President William J. Clinton in 2000 to be the United States Secretary of Commerce;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2001 to serve as the United States Secretary of Transportation;

Whereas, while serving as Secretary of Transportation on September 11, 2001, Norman Y. Mineta secured the airspace of the United States by ordering all civilian air traffic to land immediately and implemented new security protocols to ensure the safety of air travelers;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was the loving husband of Danealia Brantner Mineta, and father of David Mineta, Stuart Mineta, Robert Brantner, and Mark Brantner; and

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was known for his warm personality, commitment to public service, accessibility and accountability, and passion for his work: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Norman Yoshio Mineta, former member of the United States House of Representatives, former Secretary of Commerce, and former Secretary of Transportation;

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Norman Yoshio Mineta; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Norman Yoshio Mineta.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3499. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 68-541, as amended by the appropriate provisions of Public Law 102-246, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, and in

consultation with the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five year term:

Chris Long of New York.

Kathleen Casey of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 115-123, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual as a member of the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships:

Ryan T.E. Martin of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 115-123, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships:

Carol B. Kellermann of New York.

CONGRATULATING MASTER SERGEANT SILVERINE JAMES

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate retired Army Master Sergeant Silverine James on the naming of the Salem VA Medical Center's Women's Health Clinic in her honor.

Allowed to enlist by her mother, James joined the Army in 1949 and, after leaving in 1951, she eventually returned to the service in 1953 as an administrative specialist at the New York Point of Embarkation.

Though the Army was still segregated at the time of her rejoining, Mrs. James was given an assignment that would help lead to the integration of her company and later was a trail-blazer while serving at Camp Zama in Japan as the only African American in the Judge Advocate General section of the Far East Command.

By the time she retired in 1973, Master Sergeant James had completed 22 years of service. Taking a well-deserved year off after retirement, James began a job at the Salem VA, where she spent nearly 5 years before taking a job with FEMA.

In an article chronicling her life, Master Sergeant James said simply, "I gave my country the best part of my life."

It was great to be with Mrs. James last week to name the center in her honor. She surely did give the VA the best part of her life and her country the best part of her life.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)